

# A Study of Home Economics Classes Regarding “Living Issues” and “Living Culture” of Local Communities in Kumamoto Prefecture

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## Abstract

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The objective of this study was to bring to light the actual teaching practices and changes within home economics classes involving “local communities” in Kumamoto Prefecture. We examined 287 cases selected from 526 class lessons reported by teachers in Kumamoto Prefecture from 1970 to 2004.

The results are as follows:

1. As a percentage of total class lessons, the number involving local community topics and issues was quite high in high schools but low in elementary schools. A breakdown by decade shows that the rate increased in the 1970s, '80s, and '90s. During the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, however, the rate dropped to that of the 1980s. By topics, the numbers of social service, the environment, and childcare were high and the number of clothing was low.
2. Standard-based analysis categorized 76.7% as Level 2, 36.2% as Level 4, and 15.3% as Level 5 of the total. Comparisons by decade showed that cases identified only as Level 1 counted for 26.5% in the 1970s. The comparable rate in the 2000s, however, increased to 41.0%. Cases identified as Levels 4 and 5 were also the lowest in proportion in the 2000s.
3. These trends regarding teaching practices involving “local community” related issues or topics in Kumamoto Prefecture are influenced by the activities of the Home Economics Circle of Kumamoto Prefecture.

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